

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated progressive jackpot, comprising:

receiving a deposit of an amount of a medium of currency by a player at a gaming unit;

receiving input for a player's wager on an occurrence of the wagering game at an input device of the gaming unit;

subtracting the amount of the player's wager on the occurrence of the wagering game from the player's available credit at the gaming unit in response to receiving the input for the player's wager, wherein the player's available credit corresponds to the amount of the medium of currency deposited at the gaming unit;

comparing the amount of the player's wager on the occurrence of the wagering game to a minimum wager amount;

subtracting a progressive jackpot wager amount from one of the player's available credit and the credits subtracted from the player's available credit if the player's wager is greater than or equal to a minimum wager amount;

adding the progressive jackpot wager amount to a progressive jackpot pool for the progressive jackpot;

determining an outcome for the player for the occurrence of the wagering game; and

awarding at least a portion of the progressive jackpot pool to the player if the player's outcome for the occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome and the player's wager is greater than or equal to the minimum wager amount.

2. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 1, wherein the wagering game is a multi-player wagering game wherein each player has a unique game array of game indicia for the occurrence of the wagering game and individual game indicia are sequentially selected from the range of game indicia, wherein one of the players wins the occurrence of the wagering game by matching a predetermined game winning pattern of game indicia on the player's unique game array with the sequentially selected game indicia, and wherein the outcome of the occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome if a pattern on the

10 player's unique game array formed by game indicia on the unique game array  
matching sequentially selected game indicia matches a predetermined progressive  
12 jackpot winning pattern.

3. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 2, wherein the outcome of the  
occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
4 outcome if the player matches the predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
outcome within a predetermined maximum number of sequentially selected game  
6 indicia.

4. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 1, comprising subtracting the progressive jackpot  
wager amount from the player's available credit.

5. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 1, comprising subtracting the progressive jackpot  
wager amount from the credits subtracted from the player's available credit.

6. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 1, wherein the progressive jackpot wager amount is  
equal to a predetermined fixed wager amount.

7. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 1, wherein the progressive jackpot wager amount is  
equal to a predetermined percentage of the player's wager for the occurrence of the  
4 wagering game.

8. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 1, comprising displaying graphics corresponding to  
an outcome of the player's progressive jackpot wager at the gaming unit if the player's  
4 wager is greater than or equal to the minimum wager amount.

9. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 1, wherein the minimum wager amount is equal to  
the maximum wager that the player may make for an occurrence of the wagering  
4 game. ¶

10. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot, comprising:  
    providing a currency-accepting mechanism at a gaming unit for receiving a  
4 deposit of an amount of a medium of currency at a gaming unit;  
    providing an input device for receiving input for a player's wager on an  
6 occurrence of the wagering game at the gaming unit;  
    configuring the gaming unit to subtract the amount of the player's wager on  
8 the occurrence of the wagering game from the player's available credit at the gaming  
unit in response to receiving the input for the player's wager at the input device,  
10 wherein the player's available credit corresponds to the amount of the medium of  
currency deposited at the gaming unit;  
12      configuring the gaming unit to compare the amount of the player's wager on  
the occurrence of the wagering game to a minimum wager amount;  
14      configuring the gaming unit to subtract a progressive jackpot wager amount  
from one of the player's available credit and the credits subtracted from the player's  
16 available credit if the player's wager is greater than or equal to a minimum wager  
amount;  
18      configuring the gaming unit to add the progressive jackpot wager amount to a  
progressive jackpot pool for the progressive jackpot;  
20      configuring the gaming unit to determine an outcome for the player for the  
occurrence of the wagering game; and  
22      configuring the gaming unit to award at least a portion of the progressive  
jackpot pool to the player if the player's outcome for the occurrence of the wagering  
24 game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome and the player's wager  
is greater than or equal to the minimum wager amount.

11. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 10, wherein the wagering game is a  
multi-player wagering game wherein each player has a unique game array of game  
4 indicia for the occurrence of the wagering game and individual game indicia are  
sequentially selected from a range of available game indicia, wherein one of the  
6 players wins the occurrence of the wagering game by matching a predetermined game  
winning pattern of game indicia on the player's unique game array with the  
8 sequentially selected game indicia, and wherein the outcome of the occurrence of the

wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome if a pattern  
10 on the player's unique game array formed by game indicia on the unique game array  
matching sequentially selected game indicia matches a predetermined progressive  
12 jackpot winning pattern.

12. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 11, wherein the outcome of the  
occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
4 outcome if the player matches the predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
outcome within a predetermined maximum number of sequentially selected game  
6 indicia.

13. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 10, comprising configuring the gaming unit to  
subtract the progressive jackpot wager amount from the player's available credit.

14. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 10, comprising configuring the gaming unit to  
subtract the progressive jackpot wager amount from the credits subtracted from the  
4 player's available credit.

15. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 10, wherein the progressive jackpot wager amount is  
equal to a predetermined fixed wager amount.

16. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 10, wherein the progressive jackpot wager amount is  
equal to a predetermined percentage of the player's wager for the occurrence of the  
4 wagering game.

17. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 10, comprising configuring the gaming device to  
display graphics corresponding to an outcome of the player's progressive jackpot

4     wager at the gaming unit if the player's wager is greater than or equal to the minimum  
wager amount.

18.     A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2     jackpot in accordance with claim 10, wherein the minimum wager amount is equal to  
the maximum wager that the player may make for an occurrence of the wagering  
4     game.

19. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot, comprising:  
    receiving a deposit of an amount of a medium of currency by a player at a  
4 gaming unit;  
    receiving input for a player's wager on an occurrence of the wagering game at  
6 an input device of the gaming unit;  
    subtracting the amount of the player's wager on the occurrence of the  
8 wagering game from the player's available credit at the gaming unit in response to  
receiving the input for the player's wager, wherein the player's available credit  
10 corresponds to the amount of the medium of currency deposited at the gaming unit;  
    receiving input for a player's progressive jackpot wager for the occurrence of  
12 the wagering game at the input device of the gaming unit;  
    subtracting the amount of the player's progressive jackpot wager for the  
14 occurrence of the wagering game from the player's available credit at the gaming unit  
in response to receiving the input for the player's progressive jackpot wager;  
16 adding the progressive jackpot wager amount to a progressive jackpot pool for  
the progressive jackpot;  
18 determining an outcome for the player for the occurrence of the wagering  
game; and  
20 awarding at least a portion of the progressive jackpot pool to the player if the  
player's outcome for the occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined  
22 progressive jackpot winning outcome and the player input a progressive jackpot  
wager.

20. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 19, wherein the wagering game is a  
multi-player wagering game wherein each player has a unique game array of game  
4 indicia for the occurrence of the wagering game and individual game indicia are  
sequentially selected from a range of available game indicia, wherein one of the  
6 players wins the occurrence of the wagering game by matching a predetermined game  
winning pattern of game indicia on the player's unique game array with the  
8 sequentially selected game indicia, and wherein the outcome of the occurrence of the  
wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome if a pattern  
10 on the player's unique game array formed by game indicia on the unique game array

12 matching sequentially selected game indicia matches a predetermined progressive  
jackpot winning pattern.

21. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 20, wherein the outcome of the  
occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
4 outcome if the player matches the predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
outcome within a predetermined maximum number of sequentially selected game  
6 indicia.

22. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 19, wherein the progressive jackpot wager amount is  
equal to a predetermined fixed wager amount.

23. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 19, wherein the progressive jackpot wager amount is  
equal to a predetermined percentage of the player's wager for the occurrence of the  
4 wagering game.

24. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 19, comprising displaying graphics corresponding to  
an outcome of the player's progressive jackpot wager at the gaming unit if the player  
4 input a progressive jackpot wager.

25. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 19, wherein the minimum wager amount is equal to  
the maximum wager that the player may make for an occurrence of the wagering  
4 game.

26. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot, comprising:  
    providing a currency-accepting mechanism at a gaming unit for receiving a  
4 deposit of an amount of a medium of currency at a gaming unit;  
    providing an input device for receiving input for a player's wager on an  
6 occurrence of the wagering game at the gaming unit;  
    configuring the gaming unit to subtract the amount of the player's wager on  
8 the occurrence of the wagering game from the player's available credit at the gaming  
unit in response to receiving the input for the player's wager at the input device,  
10 wherein the player's available credit corresponds to the amount of the medium of  
currency deposited at the gaming unit;  
12      configuring the input device for receiving input for a player's progressive  
jackpot wager for the occurrence of the wagering game at the gaming unit;  
14      configuring the gaming unit to subtract the amount of the player's progressive  
jackpot wager for the occurrence of the wagering game from the player's available  
16 credit at the gaming unit in response to receiving input for the player's progressive  
jackpot wager;  
18      configuring the gaming unit to add the progressive jackpot wager amount to a  
progressive jackpot pool for the progressive jackpot;  
20      configuring the gaming unit to determine an outcome for the player for the  
occurrence of the wagering game; and  
22      configuring the gaming unit to award at least a portion of the progressive  
jackpot pool to the player if the player's outcome for the occurrence of the wagering  
24 game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome and the player inputs a  
progressive jackpot wager.

27. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 26, wherein the wagering game is a  
multi-player wagering game wherein each player has a unique game array of game  
4 indicia for the occurrence of the wagering game and individual game indicia are  
sequentially selected from a range of available game indicia, wherein one of the  
6 players wins the occurrence of the wagering game by matching a predetermined game  
winning pattern of game indicia on the player's unique game array with the  
8 sequentially selected game indicia, and wherein the outcome of the occurrence of the

wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome if a pattern  
10 on the player's unique game array formed by game indicia on the unique game array  
matching sequentially selected game indicia matches a predetermined progressive  
12 jackpot winning pattern.

28. A method for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 27, wherein the outcome of the  
occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
4 outcome if the player matches the predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
outcome within a predetermined maximum number of sequentially selected game  
6 indicia.

29. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 26, wherein the progressive jackpot wager amount is  
equal to a predetermined fixed wager amount.

30. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 26, wherein the progressive jackpot wager amount is  
equal to a predetermined percentage of the player's wager for the occurrence of the  
4 wagering game.

31. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 26, comprising configuring the gaming device to  
display graphics corresponding to an outcome of the player's progressive jackpot  
4 wager at the gaming unit if the player's wager is greater than or equal to the minimum  
wager amount.

32. A method for conducting a wagering game and associated progressive  
2 jackpot in accordance with claim 26, wherein the minimum wager amount is equal to  
the maximum wager that the player may make for an occurrence of the wagering  
4 game.

33. A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2 progressive jackpot in a gaming network having a network computer and a plurality  
of gaming units, comprising:

4       an input device for inputting a plurality of input selections;  
a gaming unit memory device;

6       a currency-accepting mechanism that is capable of allowing a player to deposit  
a medium of currency;

8       an output device;  
a value-dispensing mechanism that is capable of dispensing value to the  
10 player;

a gaming unit controller operatively coupled to the input device, the gaming  
12 unit memory device, the currency-accepting mechanism, the output device, and the  
value-dispensing mechanism,

14       the gaming unit controller being programmed to allow the currency-  
accepting mechanism to accept a deposit of an amount of a medium of  
16 currency by a player at the gaming unit,

      the gaming unit controller being programmed to allow the input device  
18 to receive input for a player's wager on an occurrence of the wagering game at  
the input device,

20       the gaming unit controller being programmed to subtract the amount  
of the player's wager on the occurrence of the wagering game from the  
22 player's available credit at the gaming unit in response to receiving the input  
for the player's wager, wherein the player's available credit corresponds to the  
24 amount of the medium of currency deposited at the gaming unit,

      the gaming unit controller being programmed to compare the amount  
26 of the player's wager on the occurrence of the wagering game to a minimum  
wager amount,

28       the gaming unit controller being programmed to subtract a progressive  
jackpot wager amount from one of the player's available credit and the credits  
30 subtracted from the player's available credit in response to determining that  
the player's wager is greater than or equal to the minimum wager amount,

32           the gaming unit controller being programmed to cause the output  
device to transmit a message to the network computer to add the progressive  
34       jackpot wager amount to a progressive jackpot pool for the progressive  
jackpot,  
36           the gaming unit controller being programmed to determine an outcome  
for the player for the occurrence of the wagering game, and  
38           the gaming unit controller being programmed to determine whether the  
player's outcome for the occurrence of the wagering game is a progressive  
40       jackpot winning outcome in response to determining that the player's outcome  
for the occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive  
42       jackpot winning outcome and to determining that the player's wager is greater  
than or equal to the minimum wager amount.

34.    A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2       progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 33, wherein the wagering game is a  
multi-player wagering game wherein each player has a unique game array of game  
4       indicia for the occurrence of the wagering game and individual game indicia are  
sequentially selected from a range of available game indicia by one of the network  
6       computer and a wagering game server of the gaming network, wherein one of the  
players wins the occurrence of the wagering game by matching a predetermined game  
8       winning pattern of game indicia on the player's unique game array with the  
sequentially selected game indicia, and wherein the outcome of the occurrence of the  
10      wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome if a pattern  
on the player's unique game array formed by game indicia on the unique game array  
12      matching sequentially selected game indicia matches a predetermined progressive  
jackpot winning pattern.

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35.    A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2       progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 34, wherein the outcome of the  
occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
4       outcome if the player matches the predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
outcome within a predetermined number of sequentially selected game indicia.

36. A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 33, wherein the gaming unit controller  
is programmed to subtract the progressive jackpot wager amount form the player's  
4 available credit.

37. A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 33, wherein the gaming unit controller  
is programmed to subtract the progressive jackpot wager amount form the credits  
4 subtracted from the player's available credit.

38. A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 33, wherein the progressive jackpot  
wager amount is equal to a predetermined fixed wager amount.

39. A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 33, wherein the progressive jackpot  
wager amount is equal to a predetermined percentage of the player's wager amount for  
4 the occurrence of the wagering game.

40. A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 33, comprising a display device  
operatively coupled to the gaming unit controller, the gaming unit controller being  
4 programmed to cause the display device to display graphics corresponding to an  
outcome of the player's progressive jackpot wager at the gaming unit in response to  
6 determining that the player's wager is greater than or equal to the minimum wager  
amount.

41. A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
2 progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 33, wherein the minimum wager amount  
is equal to the maximum wager that the player may make for an occurrence of the  
4 wagering game.

42. A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and an associated progressive jackpot in a gaming network having a network computer and a plurality of gaming units, comprising:

an input device for inputting a plurality of input selections;

a gaming unit memory device;

a currency-accepting mechanism that is capable of allowing a player to deposit a medium of currency;

an output device;

a value-dispensing mechanism that is capable of dispensing value to the player;

a gaming unit controller operatively coupled to the input device, the gaming unit memory device, the currency-accepting mechanism, the output device, and the value-dispensing mechanism,

the gaming unit controller being programmed to allow the currency-accepting mechanism to accept a deposit of an amount of a medium of currency by a player at the gaming unit,

the gaming unit controller being programmed to allow the input device to receive input for a player's wager on an occurrence of the wagering game at the input device,

the gaming unit controller being programmed to subtract the amount of the player's wager on the occurrence of the wagering game from the player's available credit at the gaming unit in response to receiving the input for the player's wager, wherein the player's available credit corresponds to the amount of the medium of currency deposited at the gaming unit,

the gaming unit controller being programmed to allow the input device to receive input for a player's progressive jackpot wager for the occurrence of the wagering game at the input device of the gaming unit,

the gaming unit controller being programmed to subtract the amount of the player's progressive jackpot wager for the occurrence of the wagering game from the player's available credit at the gaming unit in response to receiving the input for the player's progressive jackpot wager,

32           the gaming unit controller being programmed to cause the output  
device to transmit a message to the network computer to add the progressive  
34       jackpot wager amount to a progressive jackpot pool for the progressive  
jackpot,

36           the gaming unit controller being programmed to determine an outcome  
for the player for the occurrence of the wagering game, and

38           the gaming unit controller being programmed to determine whether the  
player's outcome for the occurrence of the wagering game is a progressive  
40       jackpot winning outcome in response to determining that the player's outcome  
for the occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive  
42       jackpot winning outcome and to receiving the player's input for a progressive  
jackpot wager at the input device.

43.    A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2       progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 42, wherein the wagering game is a  
multi-player wagering game wherein each player has a unique game array of game  
4       indicia for the occurrence of the wagering game and individual game indicia are  
sequentially selected from a range of available game indicia by one of the network  
6       computer and a wagering game server of the gaming network, wherein one of the  
players wins the occurrence of the wagering game by matching a predetermined game  
8       winning pattern of game indicia on the player's unique game array with the  
sequentially selected game indicia, and wherein the outcome of the occurrence of the  
10      wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome if a pattern  
on the player's unique game array formed by game indicia on the unique game array  
12      matching sequentially selected game indicia matches a predetermined progressive  
jackpot winning pattern.

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44.    A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and an associated  
2       progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 43, wherein the outcome of the  
occurrence of the wagering game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
4       outcome if the player matches the predetermined progressive jackpot winning  
outcome within a predetermined number of sequentially selected game indicia.

2       45.     A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 42, wherein the progressive jackpot  
wager amount is equal to a predetermined fixed wager amount.

2       46.     A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 42, wherein the progressive jackpot  
wager amount is equal to a predetermined percentage of the player's wager amount for  
4     the occurrence of the wagering game.

2       47.     A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 42, comprising a display device  
operatively coupled to the gaming unit controller, the gaming unit controller being  
4     programmed to cause the display device to display graphics corresponding to an  
outcome of the player's progressive jackpot wager at the gaming unit in response to  
6     receiving the player's input for a progressive jackpot wager at the input device.

2       48.     A gaming unit for conducting a wagering game and associated  
progressive jackpot in accordance with claim 42, wherein the minimum wager amount  
is equal to the maximum wager that the player may make for an occurrence of the  
4     wagering game.